

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strike through~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND claim 17 in accordance with the following:

1. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A driving circuit for a flat display device, comprising:
 - a drive circuit applying a first, high potential voltage to a first electrode of a capacitive load serving as a display element and applying a second, low potential voltage having a phase opposite to the first voltage to the first electrode of the capacitive load, so as to make the display element emit light ;
 - a power supply circuit for generating the first voltage and the second voltage to be applied to the capacitive load using an externally supplied power supply and supplying the first and second voltages over respective first and second signal lines to the drive circuit;
 - a capacitor connected between said first and second signal lines; and
 - a ramp waveform generation circuit connected to an interconnection point between a first signal line supplying the first voltage and said capacitor so as to generate a ramp waveform to be applied to the capacitive load.
2. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The driving circuit according to claim 1, wherein said ramp waveform generation circuit comprises a switching circuit and a resistor, connected to the ground.
3. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The driving circuit according to claim 2, wherein said ramp waveform generation circuit further comprises a conversion circuit for converting a supplied control signal for said switching circuit to a drive level which allows said switching circuit to operate.

4. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The driving circuit according to claim 2, wherein said ramp waveform generation circuit comprises a potential adjusting circuit for adjusting a final potential of the output ramp waveform.

5. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The driving circuit according to claim 2, wherein said ramp waveform generation circuit comprises a ramp adjusting circuit for adjusting a ramp of the output ramp waveform.

6. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The driving circuit according to claim 5, wherein said ramp adjusting circuit comprises a resistor inserted into a gate-charge loop.

7. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The driving circuit according to claim 1, wherein the ramp waveform to be applied to the capacitive load changes from a positive potential to a negative potential.

8. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) The driving circuit according to claim 1, wherein the flat display device is an AC-driven plasma display device.

9. (ORIGINAL) A driving circuit for a flat display device, applying a first voltage to a first electrode of a capacitive load serving as a display element and applying a second voltage having a phase opposite to the first voltage to the first electrode of the capacitive load, so as to make the display element emit light comprising:

first and second switching circuits connected in series between the ground and an externally supplied power supply;

a capacitor having one terminal connected to an interconnection node between said first and second switching circuits;

a third switching circuit connected between the ground and the other terminal of said capacitor; and

a fourth switching circuit and a first resistor, connected in series between the ground and the interconnection node between said first and second switching circuits.

10. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The driving circuit according to claim 9, further comprising a Zener diode having one terminal connected to the interconnection node between said first and second switching circuits, and

said fourth switching circuit and said first resistor are connected in series between the ground and the other terminal of said Zener diode.

11. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The driving circuit according to claim 9, further comprising a driver circuit for converting a supplied control signal to a drive level which allows said fourth switching circuit to operate and outputting the control signal to said fourth switching circuit.

12. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The driving circuit according to claim 11, further comprising a second resistor connected in series between an output terminal of said driver circuit and a control signal input terminal of said fourth switching circuit.

13. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The driving circuit according to claim 9, wherein the flat display device is an AC-driven plasma display device.

14. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The driving circuit according to claim 1, wherein said ramp waveform changes in its voltage with time elapsing at a constant rate in relation to the time elapse.

15. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The driving circuit according to claim 1, wherein said ramp waveform changes in its voltage with time elapsing at a rate that varies with time elapsing.

16. (CANCELED)

17. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A driving circuit for a flat display device, comprising:

- a drive circuit applying a first, high potential voltage to a first electrode of a capacitive load₁ serving as a display element₁ and applying a second, low potential voltage having a phase opposite to a phase of the first voltage to the first electrode of the capacitive load, so as to make the display element emit light;
- a power supply circuit for generating the first voltage and the second voltage to be applied to the capacitive load using an externally supplied power supply and supplying the first and second voltages over respective first and second signal lines to the drive circuit;
- a capacitor connected between said first and second signal lines; and
- a ramp waveform generation circuit connected between a first signal line supplying the first voltage and a-ground so as to generate a ramp waveform to be applied to the capacitive load.